

# PETERSBURG

## MASONS IN PETERSBURG

### WILL ATTEND SERVICES

Three Lodges Will Go in Body to Methodist Church and Hear Special Sermon.

EAGLES GIVE GENEROUSLY

They Place Dollar Bill in Hands of Each Child in Orphan Asylum. Children Will Be Guests of Elks on Christmas Day.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

PETERSBURG, VA., December 22.—The three lodges of Masons in this city—Blindfold, No. 3; Petersburg, No. 5; and Powhatan, No. 124—will worship at the Washington Street, E. Church on Sunday night. The members will meet at the Masonic Temple on West Wall Street and march in body to the church. Appropriate services will be held, and a special sermon will be delivered by the pastor, Dr. Richard Wilkinson, who is a member of the order.

**Charity Work.** Through the generosity of Petersburg Aerie of Eagles, a crisp, new dollar bill was last night placed in the hands of each of the children of a liberal orphanage for their own personal use.

On Christmas day, as usual, the orphans will be the guests of Petersburg Aerie of Eagles, a crisp, new dollar bill was last night placed in the hands of each of the children of a liberal orphanage for their own personal use.

The dancette given in Library Hall last night by the King's Daughters for the benefit of their fund for the poor was a successful and enjoyable affair. The hall was crowded with participants and spectators and a liberal sum was realized. The Daughters will distribute a great many baskets of provisions and delicacies among the needy at Christmas.

On the day before Christmas the Empty Stomach Club will distribute hundreds of packages of toys and goods among the poor children of the city.

St. Ann's Society of St. Joseph's Catholic Church has already dispensed such charity among the suffering poor of the city, regardless of creed or race, and is preparing to distribute baskets of provisions.

The Salvation Army will provide a Christmas dinner for needy families and children, and all the churches are doing their full share of charity work among the needy of their respective congregations. Taken together, with the assistance of the city in furnishing fuel, the poor will receive generous attention this Christmas.

**Death of "Mother" Bennett.** Information has been received of the death at Hedgesville, W. Va., on Sunday, of Mrs. Bennett, a Methodist minister, who was a resident of this city. She was a devoted wife and mother, and her death is a great loss to the community.

**Death in Ettrick.** Mrs. Virginia C. Andrews, aged fifty-seven years, widow of Spencer A. Andrews, died at 10 o'clock this morning at her home, on Lee Street, in Ettrick. She was much respected in the community, and is survived by four sons and two daughters—E. J. W. T. C., W. O., and Miss Anna M. Andrews, all of Ettrick, and Mrs. O. M. Chance, of Chesterfield County. The funeral will be held at the Ettrick Baptist Church to-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock.

**Cutting and Shooting Affair.** Trouble occurred last night in Carter Street between two colored men, Charles Moody and Robert Tucker, the result being that Tucker was stabbed in the shoulder and shot at several times by Moody. The balls failed to strike Tucker, and Moody made his escape.

**Requisition Honored.** John Fowler must go back to North Carolina for trial.

John Fowler, a young man arrested a few days ago in Danville as a fugitive from justice from North Carolina, was surrendered yesterday by Governor Stuart's order to J. S. Royter, sheriff of Vance County, N. C., and will have to face trial in the North State in an indictment charging him with betraying the affections of a Vance County girl, who claims to be his promised bride. A requisition from Governor Locke Craig was served on the Virginia executive at the Capitol yesterday morning.

Governor Stuart issued a requisition on the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia yesterday for Payne Diggs, who is in jail in Washington. Diggs is a resident of Loudoun County on an indictment charging him with larceny. The prisoner will be delivered to the State of V. Edwards, of Loudoun, as soon as his requisition is honored.

**A Hoosier for Xmas**



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Without a doubt the most practical, useful and acceptable gift is a HOOSIER KITCHEN CABINET.

Hours of time and miles of steps will be saved. Come in—this gift she'd rather have!

\$1 will put it in your home by our Christmas plan.

The Low Profit Policy Store  
**RYAN-SMITH & CO.**  
MASONIC TEMPLE

# CENTRAL NATIONAL

## ROBBED OF \$2,000

### IN OPEN DAYLIGHT

(Continued from First Page.)

Charles Hutzler of what had occurred. A thorough investigation was begun, and a careful balancing of the day's accounts showed that at least \$2,000 had been stolen. The bank officials said last night that this was the sum as nearly as could be determined at that time.

**BANK WANTED TO VERIFY LOSS BEFORE NOTIFYING POLICE**

It required until 5:25 o'clock in the afternoon for the bank officials to complete their investigation of the loss sustained, and during that time the news of the robbery was cautiously guarded from the outside world. The police were informed later, and Detective Kellam began work on the case at once.

However, the great loss of time resulting from the failure to notify the police immediately after the discovery that there had been a robbery has enabled the robbers to escape from the city, the police believe. Detective Kellam is of the opinion that the decoy telephone message was prearranged after a careful study of conditions in the bank had been made. There was some business being done, but the clerk could spend several minutes in a talk with a prospective customer without neglecting his work. The switchboard operator, Miss Nansom, at her desk in the next booth was unable to see above the ledge within the steel railing of the windows, and Vincent's back was turned to the interior of the bank when he was talking over the telephone.

**MUST HAVE USED WIRE OR LIGHT WALKING CANE**

All of this was true of the actual occurrence of the robbery. Detective Kellam said that a man could have entered unobserved, and later escaped without attracting attention. The detective is of the opinion that the space between the window shelf and the lower bar of the steel wicket is too small to allow a man's hand to reach in and draw out a wire or some tool of a similar kind used in drawing the money through the window. It was then a simple matter for the thief to make his exit from the bank and to disappear.

The disappearance was complete. There is no way of telling whether the thieves had secured an automobile in case it was necessary to make a hurried departure, or whether the man simply walked away with the \$2,000 tucked into an overcoat pocket. There is no description by which the police can hope to locate the thief, for no thief was seen, and there is no evidence left behind in the bank which can furnish a start for the detective investigation.

**BANK'S LOSS FULLY COVERED BY INSURANCE**

The Central National Bank is under the protection of the American Bankers' Protective Association, for which the Burns National Detective Agency investigates all robberies. Burns detectives were notified last night of the robbery through Gibson & Moore, insurance agents, and at once began their investigations. President Charles Hutzler told a reporter for The Times-Dispatch last night that the amount of the bank's loss was fully covered by insurance, and that there would be no loss to depositors or stockholders as a result of the robbery. The president would not express himself as to whether there was negligence shown in allowing the theft to occur, but appeared to think the robbery unavoidable in the light of the existing circumstances. He said that the large number of depositors in

the bank at the time the robbery occurred made it practically impossible for any one to have given particular notice to a man loitering near Vincent's window, and that the thief behind the window effectually prevented Miss Nansom from seeing what was taking place in the next booth.

**LOOK FOR ROBBERS IN BALTIMORE AND PHILADELPHIA**

Correspondents of The Times-Dispatch in Baltimore and Philadelphia early this morning telegraphed this paper that the police of those cities had been asked by the Richmond police to endeavor to locate the robbers. Descriptions were furnished, supposedly of the men who earlier in the day had attempted to steal \$10,000 from the First National Bank, and the police of the cities were also asked to endeavor to trace them through their roguish galleries. According to the information furnished by the local police, the Richmond police believe that the robbers either took an early afternoon train for the North or went to Norfolk with the expectation of proceeding North by water.

Detective-Sergeant Wiltshire was asked last night as to the authenticity of the reports from the other cities. He admitted that he had succeeded in getting a line as to the men's movements after the robbery of the Central National Bank, but refrained from discussing this portion of the case at that time. The detective said that any contemplated work of the local department would be kept secret until after something definite had resulted.

**THREE CHECKS ON PLANTERS' ARE FORGED**

During the early afternoon officials of the Planters' National Bank discovered that three certified checks returned to them from Lee Ferguson, Riggs Antique Furniture Company and the Hall Optical Company, through the American National Bank, were forged. The checks were cashed without question. Two of the checks were for \$37.50 and the other was for \$57.50. The man or men who forged the checks succeeded in obtaining \$36.50 on the \$37.50 check offered Riggs, the same amount on the check for \$57.50 given the Hall Optical Company, and \$35 on the check given Lee Ferguson.

In each case these checks were made payable to W. D. Bennett, and were signed R. M. Simpson. All of the checks were dated December 15, and each bore the certification stamp of the Planters' National Bank. The signature of Cashier Smith had been forged within the rubber stamp marking, according to officials of that institution.

**FORGED SIGNATURE OF CASHIER IN CERTIFICATION**

Detective-Sergeants Wiltshire and Bailey were sent to the Planters' Bank to investigate the checks as soon as the matter was reported to police headquarters. The detectives found that persons in each of the three stores where the checks were passed furnished different descriptions of the man who offered them. In no case were the merchants able to give a complete description of the man or men, and the difference in the general appearances as noted by them led the police to believe it possible that different members of an organized gang offered checks in the various stores.

As in the case of the robbery of the Central National Bank, the police are at a loss for a point at which to begin their investigations. Representatives

That quality flavor—HOLSUM Pan Biscuits.

of the various firms were taken to police headquarters yesterday afternoon and were shown through the Rogers Gallery, but were unable to identify any of the photographs as pictures of the man who had offered them the forged checks. There is no clue open to the police except the signatures on the checks.

**USED DIFFERENT RUBBER STAMP FROM THAT OF BANK**

Detective Wiltshire noticed as soon as the checks were shown him that the rubber certification stamp on the forged checks was not a duplicate of that used by the Planters' National Bank, and inquired why this fact was not noticed by the merchants. The circular impression, a series of saw-tooth indentations running around the outer border. The stamp is probably two inches in diameter.

That used by the Planters' Bank is scarcely larger than a silver dollar, it is said, and its border is plain. The wording in the two stamps is said to be the same, but different size type was used in the forgery from that of the real stamp. The checks were passed on the merchants Saturday afternoon, it was learned last night. Because of this fact, Sergeant Wiltshire is of the opinion that the man or men who passed the checks immediately left the city. The detective said that the merchants agreed that the man who offered the checks was gray-haired, and that this accounted for the varying estimates as to his age.

**IMITATED HANDWRITING OF CASHIER SMITH**

Detective Wiltshire said last night that the writing of the name Simpson was to all appearances that of a woman. That of Bennett appears as though it might have been written by an old man or one under the influence of liquor. That of Cashier Smith is said to be a fairly good counterfeit of his own, and would readily pass as genuine. The checking of the forged checks in the bank after the business of the day had been completed was the means by which the forgeries were detected.

The Planters' National Bank is said to be the lower as a result of the forgeries, on account of the certification and the forged name of its cashier. This bank is also under the protection of the American Bankers' Protective Association, and Burns detectives will be called upon to investigate this operation.

**BOLD ATTEMPT IS MADE AT FIRST NATIONAL**

The effect of these two raids made yesterday on local banks was accentuated by the fact that an attempt to steal \$10,000 from the shipping clerk's window of the First National Bank, was made during the morning. The alertness of Teller John M. Miller, III, saved the money for the bank, it is said. The teller saw the four men as they gathered about the window and endeavored to force open the wicket, and thus enable them to reach through and secure the piles of bills of large denominations which were lying on the shelf within.

The attempted robbery was made during the absence of Shipping Teller E. J. Woodward about 11:30 o'clock. The teller saw the men as they attempted to force back the latch which held the wicket window and sped across the bank from his own booth to that of Woodward. One of the men, evidently the lookout, for he was facing

the bank room, saw Miller as he started, and making a signal to his companions, hurried out. He was followed at once by the three other men, and all escaped before they could be apprehended.

**MILLER FURNISHES POLICE THEIR ONLY DESCRIPTION**

Miller furnished the police fairly good descriptions of three of the men, and said that he thought he would be able to identify at least one of them. Bank officials communicated with Police Headquarters at once, and Detective Sergeant Wiltshire, who was in charge of the office at the time, sent a patrolman to the bank in response to their request that a policeman be sent.

Woodward, upon returning to the bank, at once counted the money on his shelf and found it intact. The latch of the window was bent back nearly an inch, and the police are of the opinion that had the robbers been given a few minutes' time they would have been successful in securing the \$10,000. It is said that one of the men carried a light walking cane, an instrument used by sneak bank robbers to draw piles of money through the windows.

**BELIEVE ROBBERS HAVE GONE TO DISTANT CITY**

The police last night expressed the opinion that the several operations were the work of a well-organized gang of professional bank robbers. They believe that the men left the city immediately after the robbery of the Central National Bank, and that they have succeeded in reaching some distant city long ere this. The robbers left absolutely no clue by which they can be traced, and unless the Burns agency, through its mammoth organization, is able to recognize some of the robbers from the descriptions furnished by Miller, it is probable that the perpetrators of the robbery and the forced check operations will escape, in spite of the endeavors of the local police officials.

**GILLIAM A CANDIDATE**

Seeks Appointment as Commissioner of State Hospitals for Insane.

Prominent professional and business men of Petersburg are supporting Colonel Robert Gilliam's candidacy for the office of State Commissioner of Hospitals, to succeed Commissioner J. M. Hauserman, whose term expires March 1, 1915. Strong representations as to the competency and specific qualifications of Colonel Gilliam for the office have been made to Governor Stuart. Mr. Hauserman, the incumbent, is a

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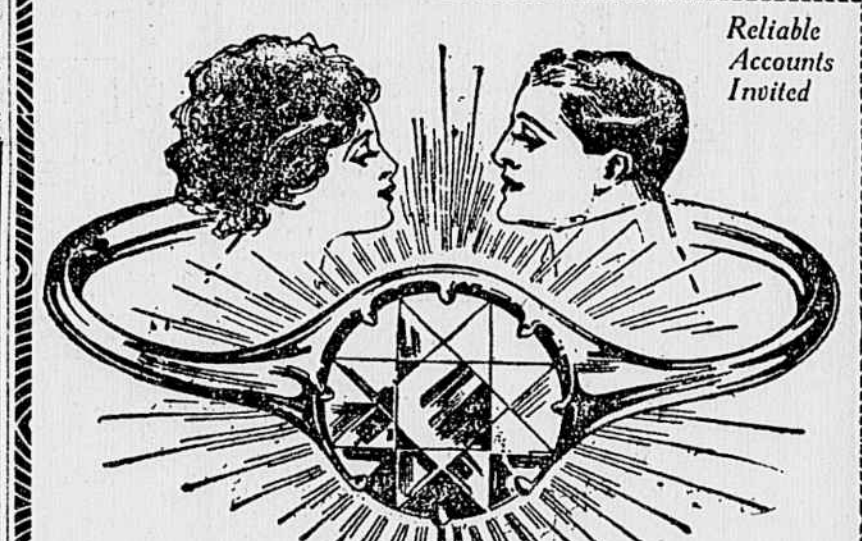
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You'll please her more this Xmas with a fine Diamond. Give her the gift that will gladden her heart—and make this Christmas remembered for years.

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No place for water bugs and roaches—can be washed and scrubbed just like the kitchen floor.

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**Sanitary Kitchen Cabinet**

are beautifully white enameled inside and out—are unbreakable and will last forever, and cost no more than old-style wooden ones—see them.

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practicing lawyer, a member of the firm of Hauserman & Tavenner, of Woodstock. Friends of Colonel Gilliam are advancing his claims on the ground that the chief officer of the State hospital system should have expert and technical knowledge of the work, a knowledge that can be only acquired by study and observation, and they represent that Colonel Gilliam is a qualified alienist, while the present commissioner does not pretend to expert knowledge of the treatment of the insane, either from the medical or scientific viewpoint.

Colonel Gilliam is a member of the board of directors of the Central State Hospital, Petersburg, having been appointed for a term of four years, beginning March 1, 1909. Commissioner Hauserman was appointed by Governor Montague for a term of six years, beginning March 1, 1911. He is a candidate for reappointment.

**BETTER TRAIN SERVICE FOR LYNCHBURG ASSURED**

LYNCHBURG, VA., December 22.—After working for more than a year to secure better train connections at Lexington for the Valley, Ernest Williams, president of the Chamber of Commerce, has been advised by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, that a change of trains will be made January 3 to bring about this condition.

Under the proposed schedule it will be possible for Lynchburg people to leave here in the morning, go as far as Harrisonburg, and after having three or more hours in that city for business, turn here in the early part of the night. The arrangement will give about five or six hours in Staunton.

**British Cruisers Off New York.**

NEW YORK, December 22.—The British cruisers Lancaster and Suffolk and the battleship Glory, which have not been heard from for several weeks,

reappeared off the entrance of New York harbor to-day. They steamed within five miles of the Sandy Hook Lightship, then southeast.

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